

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 STR-04 EPA-01 CEQ-01 NSC-05

NSF-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1257

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OSLO 1142

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJ: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND AVICE
CHAIRMAN

REF: (A)S STATE 054499, (B) OECD PARIS 06616

1. WE DISCUSSED OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP WITH ERIK LYKKE , DIRECTOR GENERAL, ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY ON MARCH 6. LYKKE SAID NORDICS WERE INDEED A LITTLY UNEASY ABOUT HAVE TWO CONSECUTIVE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC). NORDICS HOPED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY A NON-EC CANDIDATE TO SERVE. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK NORWAY WAS THE NATURAL CHOICE THOUGH TO PROVIDE THE ALTERNATIVE. NORDICS HAVENOT COMPLETED THEIR CONSULTATIONS ON THIS QUESTION, HOWEVER.

2. HE SAID NORWAY WOULD NOT OPPOSE UK CANDIDATE EVEN THOUGH THEY WANT NON-EC REPRESENTATIVE AND A BALANCED AND ACTIVE SLATE OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS.

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3. AS TO HIS OWN AVAILABILITY FOR CHAIRMAN'S POST,

HE SAID HE FEELS HONORED THAT HE IS BEING CONSIDERED.
BUT HE SAYS HE IS NOT PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN THE
JOB. HE HAS AS MUCH WORK AS HE CAN HANDLE NOW,
AND HE FEELS THAT AS EAST-WEST ACTIVITIES STEMMING
FROM CSCE MOUNT IN YEAR AHEAD HE WILL HAVE TO PUT
MORE OF HIS OWN AND NORWAY'S EFFORTS INTO
THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS BEING PURSUED WITHIN
THE ECE.

4. HOWEVER, IF SITUATION SUGGESTS HE IS THE MORE
ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE AS CHAIRMAN HE WOULD HAVE TO
RECONSIDER. HE SAID HE FELT SWEDES AND FINNS WOULD
NOT WANT A NORDIC TO DECLINE THE JOB IF IT WERE
OFFERED.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE LYKKE IS CALLING IT AS HE
SEES IT. HE IS EXTREMELY BUSY AND HE IS PUSHING HARD
TO GENERATE SUPPORT AND PROGRAMS IN SEVERAL FORUMS
FOR NORWEGIAN INITIATIVES IN ACID
PRECIPITATION PROBLEMS AND IN COLLABORATION ON NORTH
SEA OIL SPILL CLEANUP. BUT HE IS NOT WITHOUT
AMBITIONS AND IF IT TURNED OUT HE WAS ASKED TO BE
CHAIRMAN, WE THINK HE WOULD ACCEPT.
BYRNE

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